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Jive-Loving Oberleutnant and Stern, Hated Gen. Junck... Allied Troops Find These Among Trapped Brittany Foe

Hauptmann Mueller
Cold, serious, he's strictly business

Oberleutnan Schulz-Koehn
He wants Count Basie records

Truces Give Opportunity for Contact With St. Nazaire, Lorient Units

By Allan Morrisson
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WITH 66th INF. DIV. St. Nazaire, Mar. 1.—Living on borrowed time, with the troops they command securely hemmed in by U.S. and French forces in the St. Nazaire and Lorient pockets, a number of German officers have become figures of real individuality to members of this division.

Personal contact with some of these officers was established during the first of the truces arranged in mid-January for the evacuation of French civilians from St. Nazaire and exchange of prisoners and shipment of civilian food. The latest truce took place last week.

Probably the best known, and most disliked, German in the St. Nazaire territory is the commander of the Nazi forces there, Brig. Gen. Werner Junck, 50, a stern, inaccessible man.

Fighter Pilot in Last War

Junck is a Luftwaffe officer, but the only plane he now commands is a crippled American B17 which was forced down inside the German lines. Pilot and crew have since been returned through an exchange of prisoners.

Junck was a fighter pilot in World War I, later joined the 100,000 regular German postwar army, went to South America in 1923 and participated in the first air crossings of the Andes Mountains.

He took part in the attack on Poland in 1939 and fought in the Battle of Britain. In 1941 he was placed in charge of German aerial defense in western Europe, receiving the Knight's Cross last June for his leadership of fighter units.

Succeeded Plotter

When Gen. Patton's forces swept into and past Rennes last August, Junck was CG of the 265th Inf. Div., whose command he had assumed after its commander, a Maj. Gen. Duvert, was proved to have been implicated in the plot against Hitler

Though outranked by Lt. Gen. Wilhelm Fahrmbacher, a Bavarian artilleryman who heads the Lorient garrison, Junck is believed to be in tactical command of the entire Nazi pocket.

Tall, bespectacled Oberleutnant Schulz-Koehn, a high-voiced, nervous jazz fan from Berlin, whose passion is hot records, is well known to the "Black Panther" division officers who take part in the truce talks.

Any Count Basie Records?

During the last truce, Schulz-Koehn took one American officer aside out of sight of his senior Nazis.

"Got any Count Basie records you'd like to let me have?" he whispered excitedly. He discussed with fervor such famous American jazz personalities as Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and Louis Armstrong (whose art is definitely frowned upon by Dr. Goebbels), and produced a lengthy list of his jazz record collection.

"But they are beginning to wear out," he said sadly.

Most impressive of the Germans is undoubtedly Hauptmann Mueller, who usually heads the German negotiating party as Junck's personal emissary. He's a cold, haughty Nazi who confines his conversation to business.

'Willie' To His Men

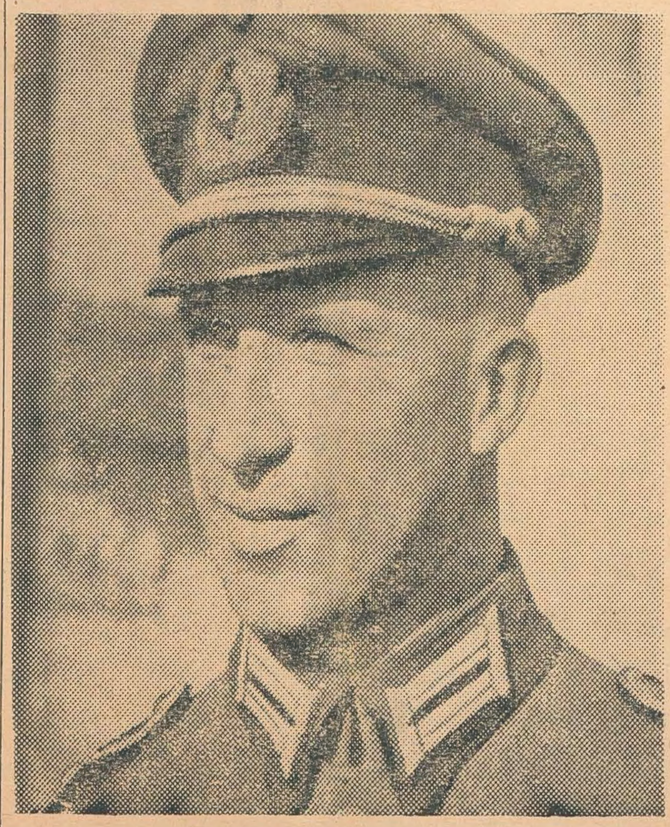
Maj. Wilhelm Hellman, a rugged paratrooper, who commands Battalion Hellman, is a character whose reputation extends inside and outside of the Nazi pocket. His men refer to him as "Willie" and are reported to engage in frequent songfests led by their CO. He fought in the Crete and Russian campaigns and holds the office of Oberburgomeister of Rudolfszell-Bodensee.

Peter Rinker, a bubbling Oberleutnant from Wurttemberg, pops up at every truce conference and boasts of the quick, regular mail service the garrison gets from the Fatherland. He has claimed to have received letters from his wife 18 hours after mailing.

But yesterday, one of the mail planes, a Heinkel 111, was forced down and captured. So perhaps Oberleutnant Rinker won't be hearing from his wife this time.

Never present at the conferences is the local Nazi party leader, Capt. Fritz Baethe, who is the political boss of the German colony. But his influence is felt up and down the territory of southern Brittany still under German control, termed by the Nazis "Festung St. Nazaire" and "Festung Lorient."

Major Wilhelm Hellman
His men call him "Willie"



Oberleutnant Peter Rinker
Strictly a family man